

has a high staff to patient ratio and a highly structured environment and no extrapolation of these results should be drawn in relation to discharge into less supervised settings, e.g. group homes, bed and breakfast accommodation etc. Indeed we would tend to agree that for a number of patients continuing care in the hospital hostel is necessary.

Lebow (1983) commented that patient attitudes and satisfaction with service were among the most easily gathered indicators of the quality of a service. Abrahamson *et al* (1989) showed that these indices could be reliably measured in this particular patient group by interviewing long-stay patients in a mental hospital about their opinions on whether they wished to leave the hospital and their knowledge of accommodation options. As in this study, a majority did not wish to stay permanently in hospital and 68% of those who said that they did wish to stay changed their mind when offered an alternative. In contrast to the positive views of relatives in our survey, when patients are discharged to live with their relatives a majority express dissatisfaction with various aspects of the service system (Grella & Grusby, 1989). It may be that it is the next step after the hospital hostel which is potentially the most traumatic both for patients and their relatives if the move is either inappropriate or made too rapidly without an integrated support system under the direction of an energetic case manager.

We hope that this study highlights the value of consultation with patients and their relatives prior to mental hospital closure and increased attention to and investigation of their opinions of their care in a variety of community settings.

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The times

Japanese pharmaceuticals company in London

A Japanese pharmaceuticals company, Eisai, is to spend £50 million on setting up a research centre in Britain. The money will be spread over 15 years. The company has chosen University College, London (UCL) as the location for a centre for the neurosciences with the aim of undertaking basic research into diseases of the central nervous system such as multiple sclerosis, Parkinson's disease and Alzheimer's disease.

The company hopes to attract about 35 scientists from the US, Japan and Europe. These staff will also hold part-time teaching and research posts at the university. Eisai will retain intellectual property rights to any potential product that arises from research at the centre. The company is also establishing the terms by which it will share the rights to the fruits of collaborative research between its own staff and scientists working for the university.